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PAINLESS PRINGLE
Opera House Block
ALMA, MICHIGAN

The Iron Trail

(Continued from Page Six)
"You're not getting ready for a trip, I hope?"
"No, sir. Not exactly, sir. The dog was cheap, so I—I just bought him." As a matter of fact, dogs were not cheap, and Walsh should have been in bed at this hour. Murray walked on wondering what the fellow could be up to.
Later he came upon a laborer dicker with a Kyak Indian over the price of a fur robe, and in front of a bunk house he found other members of the night crew talking earnestly with two lately arrived strangers. They fell silent as he approached and responded to his greeting with a peculiar nervous eagerness, starting after him curiously as he passed on.
He expected Dr. Gray out from Omar, but as he neared the track he met Mellen. The bridge superintendent engaged him briefly upon some detail, then said:
"I don't know what's the matter with the men this morning. They're loafing."
"Loafing? Nonsense! You expect too much."
Mellen shook his head. "The minute my back is turned they begin to gossip. I've had to call them down."
"Perhaps they want a holiday."
"They're not that kind. There's something in the air."
While they were speaking the morning train pulled in, and O'Neill was surprised to see at least a dozen townspeople descending from it. They were loafers, saloon frequenters, for the most part, and, oddly enough, they had with them dogs and sleds and all the equipment for travel. He was prevented from making inquiry, however, by a shout from Dr. Gray, who cried:
"Hey, chief! Look who's here!"
O'Neill hastened forward with a greeting upon his lips, for Stanley was helping Eliza and Natalie down from the entrance which served as a passenger coach.
The young women, becomingly clad in their warm winter furs, made a picture good to look upon. Natalie had ripened wonderfully since her marriage, and added to her rich dark beauty there was now an elusive sweetness, a warmth and womanliness which had been lacking before. As for Eliza, she had never appeared more sparkling, more freshly wholesome and sunny than on this morning.
"We came to take pictures," she announced. "We want to see if the bridge suits us."
"Don't you believe her, Mr. O'Neill," said Natalie. "Dan told us you were working too hard, so Eliza insisted on taking you in hand. I'm here merely in the office of chaperon and common sense. You have been overdoing. You're positively haggard."
Gray nodded. "He won't mind me. I hope you'll abuse him well. Go at him hammer and tongs!"
Ignoring Murray's smiling assertion that he was the only man in camp who really suffered from idleness, the girls pulled him about and examined him critically, then fell to discussing him as if he were not present.
"He's worn to the bone," said Eliza. "Did you ever see anything like his wrinkles? He looks like a dried apple." Natalie declared.
"Dan says he doesn't eat."
"Probably he's too busy to chew his food. We'll make him Fletcherize!"
"And eat soup. Then we'll mend his underclothes. I'll warrant he doesn't dress properly."
"How much sleep does he get?" Natalie queried of the physician.
"About half as much as he needs."
"Leave him to us," said Eliza grimly. "Now, where does he live? We'll start in there."
O'Neill protested faintly. "Please don't! I hate soup, and I can't allow anybody to pry into my wardrobe. It won't stand inspection."
Miss Appleton pointed to his feet and asked crisply:
"How many pairs of socks do you wear?"
"One."
Natalie was shocked. "One pair of socks in this cold! It's time we took home now, lead us to this rabbit hole where you live."
With a feminine touch the girls enthusiastically fixed up Murray's home. They put his house in order; they mended his socks. They had just finished their work when the doctor came running. He began abruptly:
"I've been looking for you, Murray. The men are all quitting."
O'Neill started. "All quitting? What are you talking about?"
(To be Continued.)

VESTABURG ITEMS

By Our Own Correspondent

Mr. and Mrs. George Wood and daughter spent Sunday at the farm home of their son, Myro.
C. M. Guild was in Riverdale, Saturday.
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Caris and son, spent Sunday at the farm home of Mrs. Alida Miller and Mr. and Mrs. James Miller.
Stanley Geisel and Roy McGilivray autowed to Edmore, Sunday.
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Manley, daughter, Claudian, and Mrs. Baker of Riverdale were Sunday guests of the former's mother, Mrs. Blanche Manley.
Harry Owen has charge of Dr. Hubbard's drug store during the doctor's absence in Grand Rapids.
Mrs. Edna Hubbard is in Grand Rapids taking the pharmacy examination so as to be assistant pharmacist to Dr. Hubbard.
Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Meddick accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Harzey Fisher and Harold Reed autowed to Edmore Friday evening to attend the basketball game.
Dr. Hubbard is in Grand Rapids buying his Christmas goods.
John McFohan returned home Monday evening.
Mrs. Olive Snyder and friend of Saranac spent from Saturday evening until Monday morning at the home of her uncle, Wm. Person.
Wm. Puffer was in Edmore, Monday.
Mrs. Hannah of Hillsdale county, is here caring for Donald and Leonard Hubbard during the absence of her daughter, Mrs. Edna Hubbard.

Mrs. Marion Nickerson returned home Monday morning.
Mr. and Mrs. George Wood were in Riverdale Saturday.
Miss Mable Tupper visited at the farm home of her uncle, Earl Sanders Sunday.
Bert Howay returned to his work Monday morning.
Attend the street sale at Vestaburg Saturday, November 25th.
Elwood Pangburn has returned from Alma.
Glenn Person has recovered from his illness.
Delbert and Frank Hamlin were at Cedar Lake, Thursday.
George Gorsuch, son Charles, and Frank McDole returned from their deer hunting trip Thursday evening. Both Mr. Gorsuch and son secured a deer apiece.
Mr. Puffer, who has been visiting at the home of his uncle, Wm. Puffer, left for Lowell, Monday evening.
Orval Hancock spent the week at home.

FOREST HILL

Silas Moody passed away at the home of L. B. Leonard at 2:00 o'clock Saturday morning, after a few weeks illness. His two sons, George Moody of Park Lake and L. C. Moody of this place and grandson, Will Moody, and granddaughter, Mrs. May Roberts of Rhodes, were with him at the last. The funeral was held at the Christian church, Tuesday afternoon.
Dee Roberts of Rhodes came Saturday to attend the funeral of Mr. Moody.
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cox and Miss Amy Towersey and Will Courter spent Sunday with friends near Ithaca.
Dewey Failing was home from Shepherd, over Sunday.
L. C. Mills and A. Wilber made a business trip to Saginaw, Thursday.
The young peoples' class will serve an oyster supper in the church basement, Friday evening, November 24.
Mrs. H. Fomey has company from Flint.

NORTHWEST SEVILLE

Quite a few from this vicinity attended Mrs. R. Battles sale, Wednesday, near Jerseyville.

\$50 SAVED SAVINGS CLUB SAVE \$100

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WHEELER

Mrs. Carl Lashaw visited her parents at Clare, Monday.
Mrs. Chas. Maxted returned to her home in Brighton, Thursday, after spending a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Allen.
Floyd Cooper is moving on his farm south of Merrill.
A. Buchler is moving to Alma.
F. Hale expects to move to Alma soon.
Amos Bradford and Bert Watson are up north hunting.
Mrs. Chas. Kingsbury and daughter Helen of Alma visited friends here Saturday.
Frank Murphy was in Saginaw, Wednesday.
Henry Buck has moved to Lansing.
Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Ellsworth was in Alma, Friday night.
Miss Jessie Smith of Alma visited Miss Ethel Street over the week end.
Mrs. McEwen of Sycamore, Ohio, is visiting her sister, Mrs. E. S. Owen.
Mrs. Giddings of Defiance, Ohio, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hillcock.
Erwin Rymard expects to move to near Ashley soon.
M. A. Salter of Ithaca was in town on business, Thursday.
J. A. Collison was in Saginaw, Monday.
Floyd Howard has moved to Alma.
Newell Bradford of Ithaca was in town Wednesday and Thursday.
Mrs. Sam Hackett visited in Breckenridge, Wednesday.
Mrs. Ed. Allen visited her daughter, Mrs. A. Roof at Elwell, Monday.
Miss Lillie Huffmyer and Miss Beno Huffmyer was in Saginaw, Friday.
Mr. Rapley of Ohio and J. L. Cobain, and Mr. Ester of Detroit were in town Tuesday looking after the condensed business.

WEST PINE RIVER

Miss Marion Bartley, who is attending school at Mt. Pleasant, was home over Sunday.

BUSINESS CARDS

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Dr. Fred A. Gill
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Mark L. Spinney, Clerk
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